



50 YEARS OF VIGILANCE

A LOOK BACK AT THE HISTORY OF THE
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIGEST

50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

You are about to embark on a journey through history. Take a ride with us, “Down the Highways”, as we celebrate 50 years of the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The Digest, an internal publication of AZDPS, has been in circulation for over 60 years, highlighting stories of employees and the Department. The following stories are excerpts directly taken from a Digest publication in that respective year with some years omitted. Over the last 50 years, there have been many agency changing events but there have also been lull years, which is common for any large organizations, especially governmental.

Creative Services Unit

VANTAGE POINT

COL. FRANK MILSTEAD

We, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, are made of history and, today, we are the makers of history.

It is an indescribable feeling of honor being the director of the Department during its 50th anniversary. This is an incredible, venerable organization with a storied past. A past full of highs and lows, miracles and tragedies, excitement and lulls. Many changes have occurred in the last four years of my administration and in the Department's 50 years, but one thing that has not changed is the amazing personnel that make up AZDPS - past, present, and future.

Life is funny and unpredictable. In 1988, a time capsule was buried under the flagpoles of the Headquarters Building in Phoenix with an unearthing scheduled in 2019. The time capsule was filled with memorabilia from the first 19 years of the Department. On the third floor of the Headquarters Building, a man sat in his office writing a letter to the future director, which would be placed in the time capsule and opened only by the director of AZDPS in 2019. It was sealed and buried. Thirty one years later, I had the honor of being the next person to have their hands on the letter. In 1988, the director of the agency was my father, Col. Ralph Milstead. Nobody, including him, could have predicted that his son would be the recipient of that letter. It was unexpected and emotional.

In the letter, my dad wrote about how beyond proud he was of the men and women that he had the privilege to work alongside throughout the 1980s. Here I am in 2019, sitting in the same office that my dad sat in, writing a letter to the men and women that I too am beyond proud and honored to work alongside.

Over the last four years, I have been amazed at the level of talent and expertise we have within every level of the agency. From the troopers in the most remote areas of the state, to the professional staff employees working behind the scenes, you are the ones that help us reach our mission every day of protecting human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity and providing vital support to the state of Arizona and its citizens.

Coming in as the director, I recognized the history that was already written, and began writing more. One of the first, and biggest, changes I implemented was a branding overhaul that better reflected our agency and the services we provided. With the support of Gov. Doug Ducey and positive feedback from employees, we began recognizing sworn personnel at AZDPS as "State Troopers" or "Troopers" in lieu of "Officers" or "Patrolmen". Trooper better reflects the statewide law enforcement work done by our sworn personnel, which follows the branding of many other state-level law enforcement agencies nationwide. Additionally, we introduced our new color scheme of silver and black which replaced the blue and white.

Our history makes us who we are today. We remember every high, every miracle, and every exciting moment. In return, we learn from every low, every tragedy, and every lull. Today, we begin the chapter of the next 50 years of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

I am grateful that I was given another four years to lead the Arizona Department of Public Safety. It is not a job I take lightly. I am deeply committed to this organization and will continue to work as hard as possible to represent you at the highest level every day. Let's continue making our mark in the Department's history.



Frank L. Milstead
Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety





Col. Frank Milstead speaks with a trooper at the Barbecue for Champions, 2015

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Rose Mofford

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
EVAN MECHAM
GOVERNORRALPH T. MILSTEAD
DIRECTOR

April 7, 1988

Dear Director:

I found it very difficult to begin this letter to you. My mind raced from one thought to another of things I wanted to say, and then suddenly I was filled with emotions as I pondered the future and my own mortality.

How will life be for my son and daughters? How will their lives turn out?

What about our country? Can we avoid nuclear war? Can the world ever be a peaceful place?

What of my friends? Two of the dearest people in the world to me are Dina Tidball and her son, Scotty. What do their lives hold for them?

Dear Director, please understand that my family and friends are what I cherish and my thoughts of their future fill me with joy and concern, happiness and apprehension.

I began this letter once before, in the middle of the firestorm surrounding the impeachment of Evan Mecham. I put off finishing it until the day before it was to be sealed in the time capsule. Evan Mecham was impeached by the State Senate two days ago and they adjourned just minutes ago after passing a resolution commending Judge Gordon. I would concur in that resolution. Judge Gordon did an outstanding job.

The impeachment of the Governor only covered a few months of my 28 years in law enforcement, but it was certainly the most significant event I have ever been involved in. I'm sure by the time you read this that Evan Mecham's impeachment will be a well-documented, but forgotten, episode in Arizona politics. Evan Mecham was a corrupt man, totally without integrity. The first count to his impeachment was obstruction of justice. The history books may lead you to believe that his orders to me to not cooperate with the Attorney General and to cover up a death threat to a Grand Jury witness were the issues. That was only part of it. The vote against Mecham was a vote against his incompetence, deceit and racism. I don't know how this ugly bit of Arizona politics will finally turn out but I hope history will treat DPS and our role kindly. I know I did my duty and upheld the oath of office.

April 7, 1988

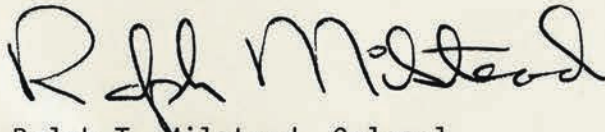
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As Director of this Department, I consider myself very lucky. I have had a chance to be associated with the finest people anywhere. The officers and civilian employees of this Department are second to none. My staff are the most professional imaginable. I hope you feel the same way about the Department that I do. I began my career in the Phoenix Police Department in 1960 and never dreamed I would have the opportunity to do what I have done. It has been a fantastic career.

I know a little about you. I know you're a good person, very successful and a leader. I know you head the finest law enforcement agency in Arizona and possibly the United States. I know DPS is in good hands. I know we could be friends.

Best wishes to you and the Department.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph Milstead". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ralph" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Milstead".

Ralph T. Milstead, Colonel
Director

pb

THE ROAD TO AZDPS

The first regional law enforcement effort in Arizona occurred in 1901 when the territorial governor organized the “Arizona Rangers”. This small force made a strong impact on the rustling and smuggling problems of the time but was disbanded in 1909, three years before Arizona achieved statehood.

Twenty-two years later, because of concern regarding the growing number of accidents and unlicensed vehicles on its highways, the Arizona Highway Patrol was instituted as a branch of the Arizona Highway Department. The initial force in 1931 was limited to a superintendent, 14 patrolmen (one authorized for each county) and one desk sergeant.





Arizona Highway Patrol, State Capitol, 1931



The AZDPS Headquarters Building, 1970

THE ROAD TO AZDPS



Today, the Arizona Department of Public Safety is a law enforcement agency with a primary focus of patrolling and enforcing laws on Arizona state highways. Additional responsibilities include enforcing laws in the areas of traffic, narcotics, organized crime/racketeering, liquor and specific regulatory functions. Operational and technical assistance is provided to local and state governmental agencies and other components of the criminal justice community; services include scientific analysis, aircraft support, emergency first care, criminal information systems and statewide communications.

The Department also promotes and enhances the quality of public safety through cooperative enforcement, intelligence gathering, training employees of law enforcement agencies, and increasing public awareness of criminal activities. With its main headquarters in Phoenix, the AZDPS employs over 2,100 employees who work together to serve and support the interests of public safety throughout Arizona.

1969

AZDPS ESTABLISHED

The Arizona Highway Patrol was instituted in 1931 as a branch of the Arizona Highway Department. In 1967, the governor's crime commission recommended creation of the Department to "assemble state-level law enforcement activities into a single, effective governmental unit."

Two years later, on July 1, 1969, the Arizona Department of Public Safety was officially established. It consolidated the functions and responsibilities of the Arizona Highway Patrol, the Enforcement Division of the Department of Liquor Licenses and Control, and the Narcotics Division of the Arizona Department of Law.



J.J. Hegarty meeting with AZDPS administrators, 1969

1970

FINGERPRINT PROCESSING

The Criminal Investigations Division of AZDPS takes over fingerprint processing. Prior to this, the processing was done by the FBI.



AZDPS Fingerprint Unit gathering fingerprints

1970

1972

EMS & ARS CREATED

AZDPS is required to operate two air rescue helicopters and train and certify ground ambulances and EMTs, as well as operate a ground ambulance when needed.

The Air Rescue Section (ARS) had its beginnings in October 1972, following a demonstration program funded by a federal grant. The new service was totally state funded and began with two helicopters based at Mesa Falcon Field close to Phoenix.



The EMS ambulance and ARS helicopter on display to show their functions.

1973

FIRST SWORN FEMALE

On November 29, the Training Academy graduated 35 new cadets, including the Department's first female officer to be assigned to Uniform Duty. Linda Baumgardner will be stationed in Tucson. The Uniform Division now has 458 officers assigned to field duty.



Officer Linda Baumgardner with fellow Class 23 graduates, 1973

1973

1974

PROJECT HERCO



Peggy Cuker, AZDPS Dispatcher, Phoenix

On March 15, 1974, the initiation ceremony for Project HERCO, (Highway Emergency Radio Control Operation) was held in Holbrook.

Colonel Robert Sears, Division Chief of E.M.S., presented the First HERCO radio to Yellow Freight Line officials. A 2-day test period started March 19, 1974 at 0800 when HERCO number 1 departed Holbrook for Kingman. The program officially went into effect April 1, 1974.

The objective of the HERCO Project is to reduce the time period between the detection of an accident and notification of authorities.

The HERCO Project involves issuance of portable radios to professional truck drivers traveling U.S. 66 and I-40. The radios have the capability of communicating directly with the AZDPS dispatcher.

1975

RADAR PROGRAM

The Arizona Highway Patrol pushes a statewide radar speed enforcement program. The agency purchased 150 radar sets for the establishment of a statewide radar speed enforcement program. The agency will concentrate on accident prone areas. A supervisor and a team of three or four officers go into a target area checking for fatigued and intoxicated drivers, excessive speeders, and faulty equipment.



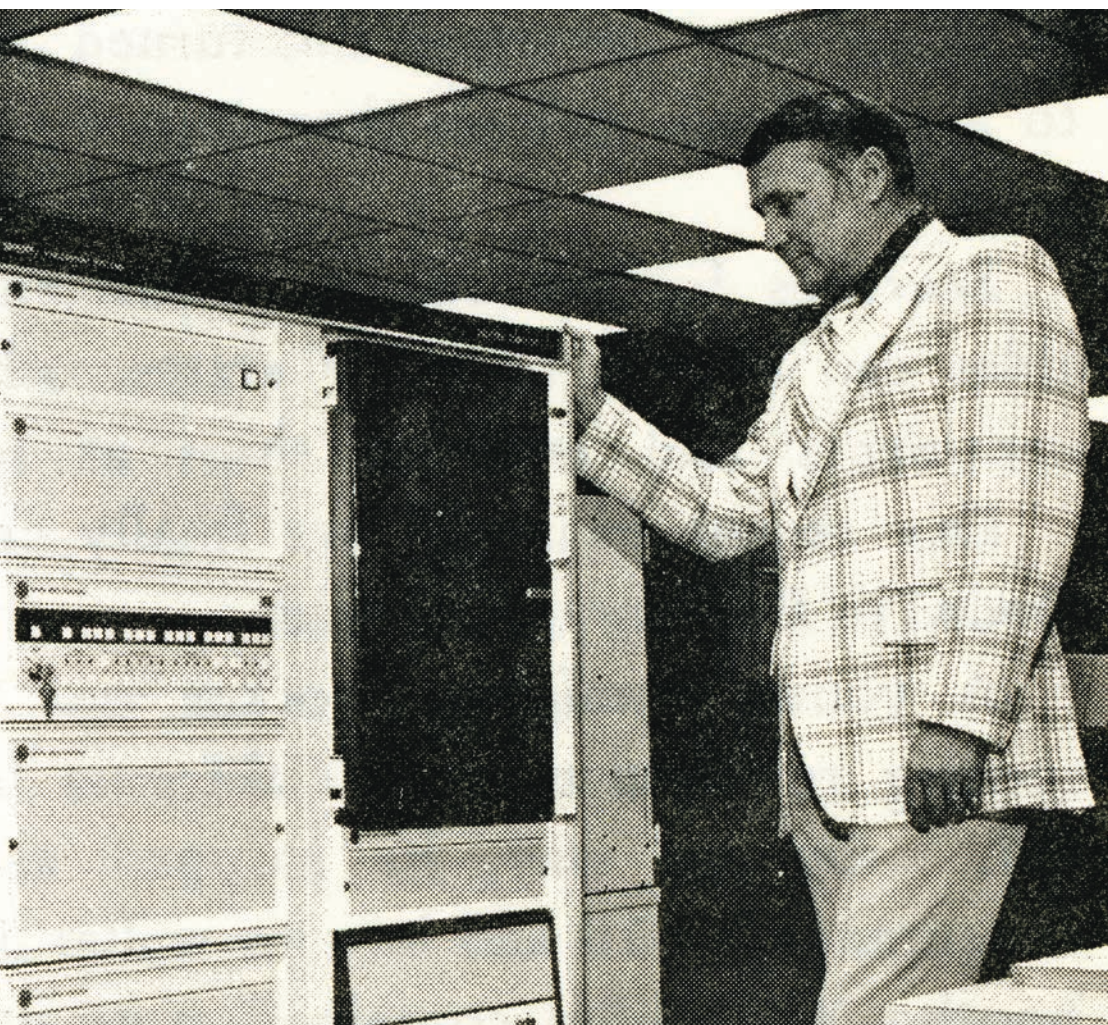
Officer Crane performing radar detail

1975

1976

PRINT FILES

Print file computerization was becoming a reality for many agencies. A new computer system for classifying and matching fingerprint cards was installed at AZDPS, which will greatly reduce the workload involved in conducting fingerprint searches. AZDPS is the first state law enforcement agency to install such a system. Previously, the cards had to be classified with the use of a magnifying glass and then manually matched.



Lt. Stan Kimball inspecting new equipment

1977

TUCSON BUILDING OPENED

Prior to the opening of the new facility, operations in Tucson were housed in a double-wide mobile home and a regular mobile home. The new Tucson facility consists of 29,000 square feet and sat on eight acres of land. Highway Patrol and Criminal Investigations personnel were the first to move into the building.



Tucson Headquarters Building, 1977

1977

1978

CANINES INTRODUCED

The Department has added four German Shepherd dogs, who are specialists in the field of narcotics. The primary function of the dogs will be to sniff for hidden contraband drugs and to act as backup for the officers.



Canine Ollie in his handler's patrol vehicle

1980

MDT EXPERIMENT

The agency experiments with mobile computers for the first time ever. A six-month experiment went underway using a mobile computer data terminal (MDT), on loan from Motorola, giving our officers fingertip access to stolen vehicle information, NCIC and ACIC, wanted suspect, driver license, and a variety of other crime files while on patrol.



Mobile computer installed in a District 5 patrol vehicle

1980

1980

MAKE-A-WISH: CHRIS GREICIUS



Chris posing in his trooper uniform

During a long nighttime stakeout kneeling in some desert weeds in the spring of 1980, U.S. Customs Agent Tommy Austin tells Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer Ron Cox his problem.

His wife's friend Linda has a small son named Chris Greicius who is probably going to die of leukemia. The seven-year-old boy yearns to be a police officer "to catch bad guys" with Austin. Running into bureaucratic hesitation at Customs, Austin asks Cox if maybe AZDPS can do something. "I'll rent a helicopter myself if I have to," Austin says.

Cox takes the request to AZDPS spokesman Allan Schmidt, who asks AZDPS Director Ralph T. Milstead. He gives Schmidt carte blanche to grant Chris' wish. Soon Austin receives a call from Chris' mom saying that she doesn't think he can hang on much longer.

“None of us had any idea what we were getting into at the time,” Schmidt will recall 30 years later. He draws other people in: Officer Jim Eaves will bring his patrol car, and Officer Frank Shankwitz his motorcycle, to meet the AZDPS helicopter flying Chris to headquarters. On April 29, Chris comes from Scottsdale Memorial Hospital to the empty lot by AZDPS at Lewis and 19th Avenue. There he and his parents are given a tour. That’s when Lt. Col. Dick Schaefer gives the boy a “Smokey Bear” hat and one of his own old badges, and Chris becomes Arizona’s first and only honorary AZDPS officer.

Everyone who meets the beaming boy chewing bubble gum wants to help. At the end of the day, some of those involved meet in a spontaneous group hug and realize they don’t want the day to be the end of it. They also know they don’t have much time.

Two of them, Cox and Eaves, go to John’s Uniforms, the business that makes all AZDPS uniforms, and order one Chris’ size. Employees work all night to have it ready the next day. A group of officers take the uniform to his house, where Shankwitz sets up cones for Chris to steer his battery-powered motorcycle through to qualify for a motorcycle officer’s wings.

But when they return the next day to present the wings to Chris, he’s gone back into the hospital. With his AZDPS gifts all around him, clutching his new wings, Chris gives a last smile for the men who have done so much for him in such a short time. He passes May 3.

- *Make-A-Wish*



Chris, age 7, smiling on an AZDPS motorcycle



Chris meeting with AZDPS Director Ralph T. Milstead

1981

FIELD TRAINING OFFICER PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED

The FTO Program is instituted into AZDPS for the first time. This program, known as the Field Training Officer (FTO) program, was implemented to improve the quality and efficiency of the new officer as they leave the Academy to assume field duties.



1981 Plymouth Gran Fury

1981

1982

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE IMPLEMENTED

A Defensive Driving Course is implemented in order to prevent and reduce vehicle related accidents within the Department. Twenty-one teachers are trained for the program with the intent to eventually utilize them to train all sworn and civilian staff in the defensive driving course.



A patrol vehicle takes to the 400 ft by 400 ft defensive driving course.

1982

1983

ARIZONA COPPER MINE STRIKE



Tent City: A temporary suburb of Morenci and makeshift home for AZDPS officers who preserved law during the strike.

The Arizona copper mine strike of 1983 began as a bargaining dispute between the Phelps Dodge Corporation and a group of union copper miners and mill workers, led by the United Steelworkers. The subsequent strike lasted nearly three years, and resulted in replacement of most of the striking workers and decertification of the unions. It is regarded as an important event in the history of the United States labor movement.

Nestled at the base of mountainous terrain, "Tent City" became a temporary suburb of Morenci and a makeshift mid-August home for more than 300 Arizona Department of Public Safety officers sent there to preserve law and order during the copper workers' strike against Phelps Dodge.

Those at "Tent City" represented the largest congregation of AZDPS officers in the history of the organization.

Following a 10-day cool off period, AZDPS officers stood guard at two main entrances of the mine. During the first two days of officer presence, there were no reported incidents of violence.



Lt. Col. Larry Thompson meeting with Director Ralph T. Milstead



AZDPS officers stand guard near the Phelps Dodge mine entrance



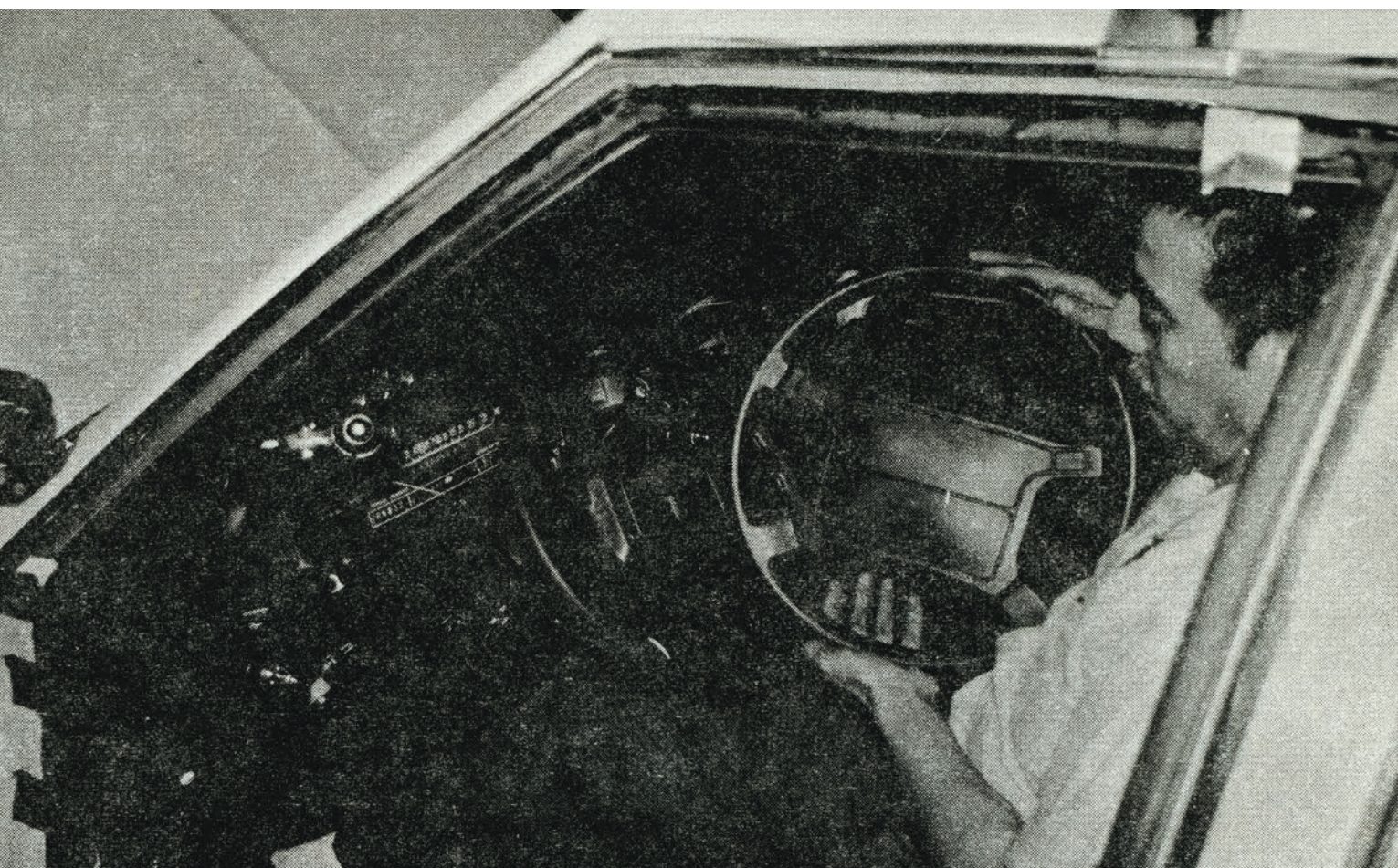
"The Ballad of Morenci"
by Ron Cox



1984

PATROL VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH AIR BAGS

Over a period of two years, 100 Ford LTD AZDPS patrol vehicles became equipped with air bags. Eighteen tests were conducted to meet the NHTSA safety standards. The new safety devices would allow for a reduction in injuries among those involved in serious vehicular accidents.

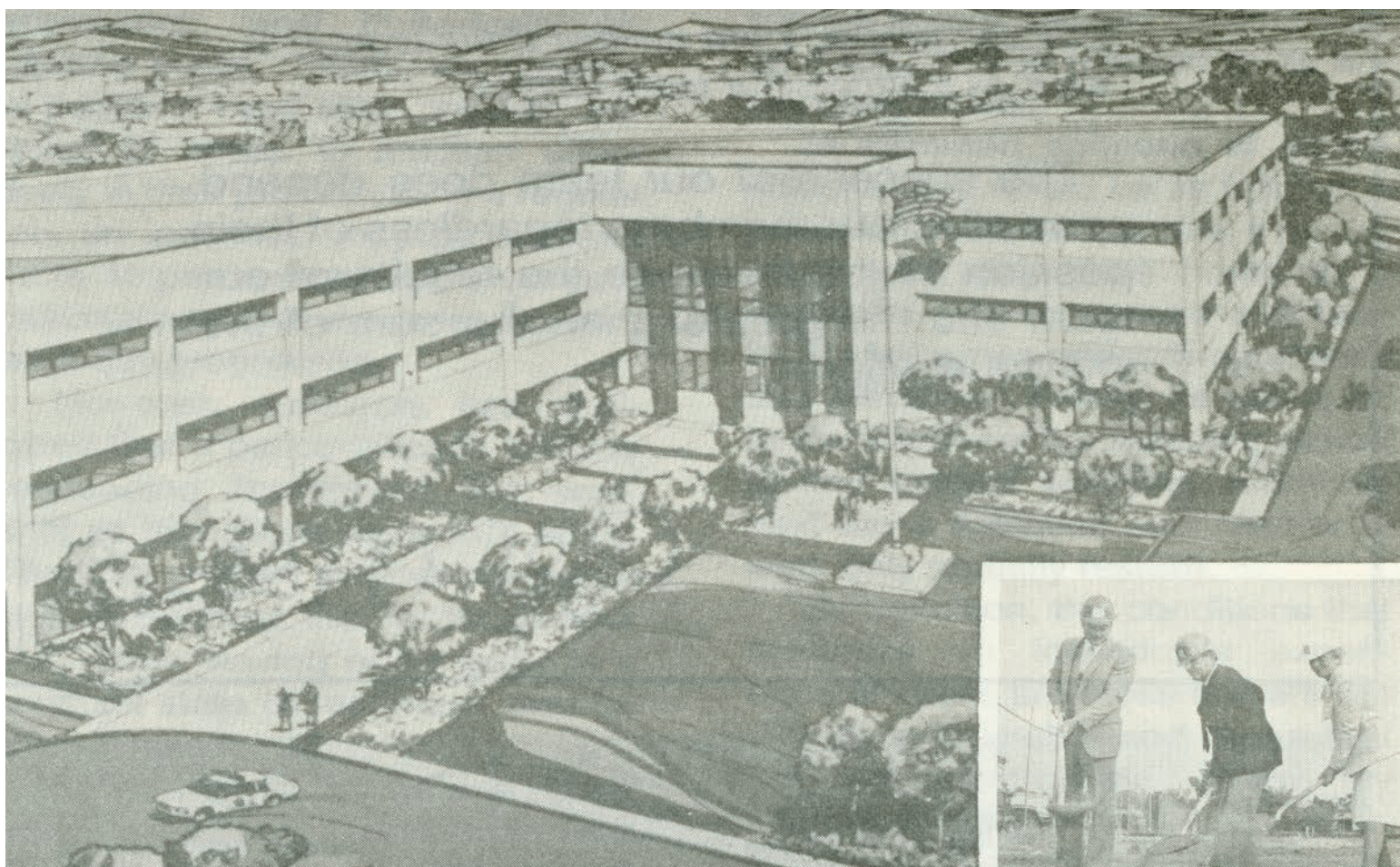


Alex Villagomez of Transportation holds a steering wheel which is equipped with an air bag restraint system.

1986

GROUND BROKEN FOR PHOENIX HEADQUARTERS

The long-awaited groundbreaking for the new AZDPS Operations Building in Phoenix became a reality when AZDPS Director Ralph T. Milstead, State Rep. Burton S. Barr and State Rep. Pat Wright turned the first shovelfuls of dirt.



(From left) AZDPS Director Ralph T. Milstead, State Rep. Burton Barr and State Rep. Pat Wright break ground.

1986

1987

IMPEACHMENT OF MECHAM

A ZDPS Director Ralph T. Milstead testified before a state House Select Committee studying whether to impeach Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham. The panel is looking into possible wrongdoings by Gov. Mecham concerning a loan, misappropriation of funds and the handling of an alleged death threat.

Director Milstead testified on January 21 that Gov. Mecham ordered him not to cooperate with the state Attorney General's Office concerning an investigation into an alleged death threat. Ultimately, the grand jury vote resulted in the indictment of Gov. Mecham for violation of campaign finance laws.



Director Ralph T. Milstead testifies before a state House Select Committee regarding the impeachment of Gov. Evan Mecham.

1987

1988

TIME CAPSULE BURIED

Many memories were buried in the time capsule, which will be retrieved in the year 2019, the 50th anniversary of the creation of AZDPS. The content of the box includes badges, pins, letters from the agency, a Governor's Award, and other memorabilia that represent the first 19 years of AZDPS.



Cement being poured over the capsule



Various contents before they were put into the time capsule



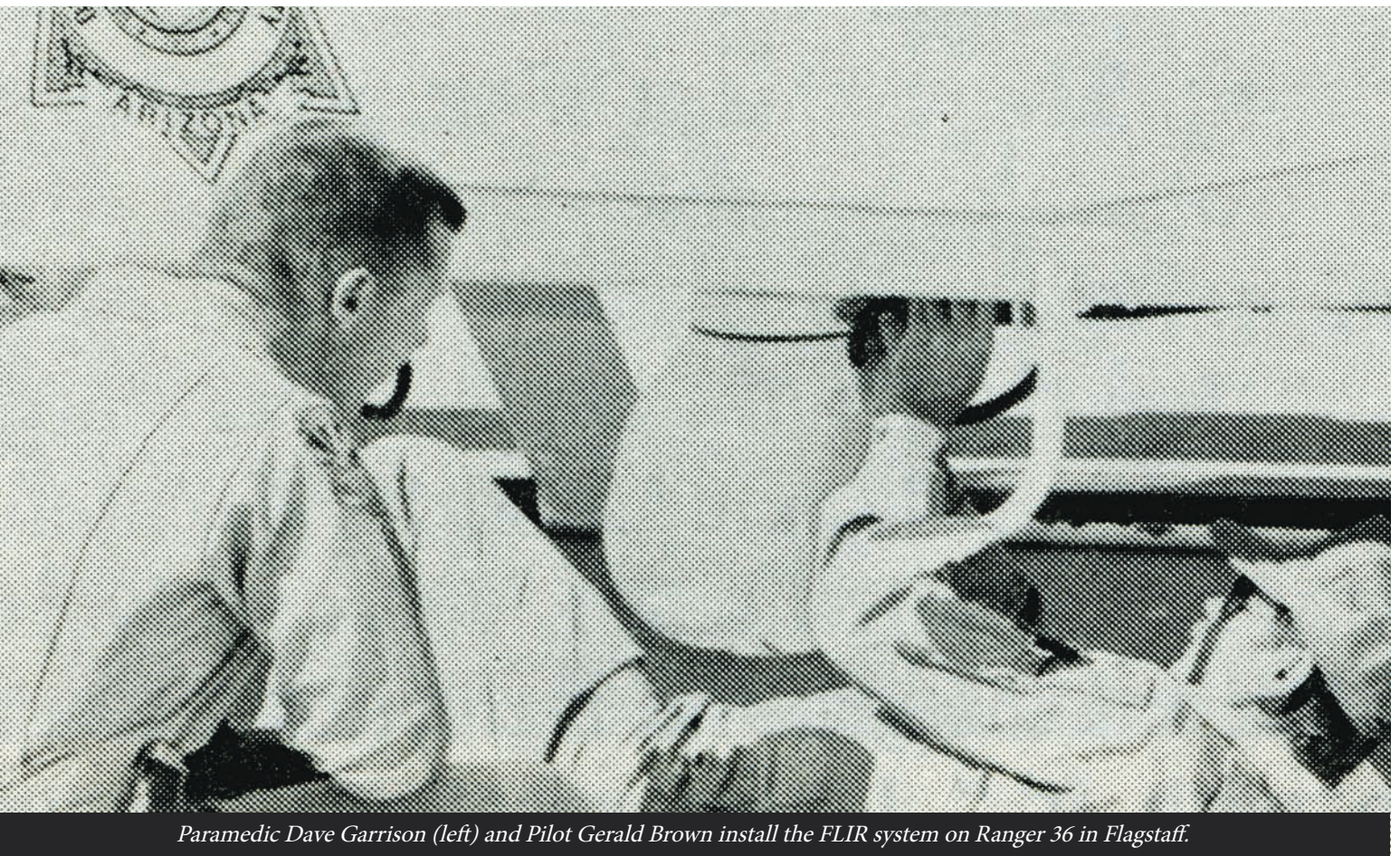
Lowering of the time capsule at the Headquarters Building in Phoenix

1988

1989

FLIR INSTALLED ON RANGER 36

A new imaging system called Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) used by the Ranger 36 helicopter allows for easier searches of criminal suspects or lost persons on the ground. FLIR is a viewing system that can look forward, backward, up, down and sideways. Infrared equipment is the best known method of expanding observations beyond the range of the human eye.



Paramedic Dave Garrison (left) and Pilot Gerald Brown install the FLIR system on Ranger 36 in Flagstaff.

1990

FIRST D.R.

NUMBER COMPUTERIZED

Kim Kalar, Southern Communications Center dispatcher, has the honor of issuing the first department report number for the Southern Division using the new IDEA computer. He did not have to leave his radio console to obtain a D.R. number, as was the case with the previous equipment.



Kim Kalar, AZDPS Dispatcher, Southern Communications Center

1991

SEVEN POINTS OF THE BADGE

For years, it was believed that each of the seven points on the AZDPS badge reflected something positive in respect to the Department and law enforcement. Major Harley Thompson taught classes during the 1960s-1970s and frequently described what each point of the badge stood for and what the badge personally meant to him. He used the word “Justice” as an acronym. After a contest and collaboration from AZDPS employees, it was determined that JUSTICE would be used as the acronym with each point representing Justice, Undaunted, Service, Trust, Integrity, Courtesy, and Empathy.



1994

DEPARTMENT FLAG DESIGNED

Director Rick Ayars and Governor Fife Symington display the AZDPS flag during the silver anniversary ceremonies at the Headquarters Building in Phoenix. This is the first time a flag had been created for the Department.



AZDPS Director Rick Ayars (left) and Gov. Fife Symington display the flag. Sgt. Woody Wood (right) looks on.

1994

1995

GITEM ESTABLISHED

After a few years of deliberation, GITEM is officially created through Arizona legislation. Laws 1994, Chapter 200 establishes the Gang Intelligence and Team Enforcement Mission (GITEM) as a statewide multi-agency task force to provide gang enforcement and intelligence services.



GITEM
STATE
GANG
TASKFORCE

1995

1996

CRIME LAB BUILT

Construction of AZDPS' new state-of-the-art crime lab gets underway. The symbolic first shovel full of dirt was moved during groundbreaking ceremonies, signaling the start of an expected 14-month construction project which would result in a two-story Scientific and Technical Support Building (STSB) for the Department. When completed in the spring of 1997, the 63,000-square-foot structure would house the Department's crime laboratory and other related functions such as accident reconstruction, property and evidence, latent prints and questioned documents.



Director Albo, AZDPS employees at groundbreaking

1996

1997

THE FIRST FIVE CHAPLAINS

After a lengthy selection process, five clergy members became the first “official” chaplains in AZDPS history. All chaplains are ordained ministers or priests who are “devoted to the cause of helping AZDPS employees and their families during times of bereavement or crisis.”



*Seated from left: John Davis, AZDPS Director Joe Albo, and Jack Wilson.
Standing from left: Sgt. Dave Myers, Vernon Trahms, Jeff Mockbee, Stewart Lewis, Dale Hansen, and John Pope.*

1998

TROOPER STATUE UNVEILED

A near 11-foot tall bronze statue of an AZDPS Highway Patrol Officer was unveiled and dedicated during the Fallen Officer Memorial at the Phoenix Headquarters Building.

The 1,800 pound statue rests on a 3-foot concrete pedestal and is flanked by two 10-foot long cement memorial walls. The walls contain bronze plaques honoring the fallen officers of AZDPS.



The Trooper Statue stands tall in front of the Headquarters Building in Phoenix

1999

MOUNTED HORSE UNIT ESTABLISHED

Five AZDPS officers complete a mounted police training course to establish the Department's first official mounted unit.



The Mounted Horse Unit participates in a training course

1999

2000

FINGERPRINT CLEARANCE CARD PROGRAM

Laws 1998, Chapter 270 creates the fingerprint clearance card, requiring specific employees to obtain a card prior to employment, and charges AZDPS with administrative responsibility for the program.



STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card

Name:

Birth Date:

Issue Date:

Sex

Weight

Height

Eyes

Hair

Card Number:

Expire Date:

2001

BOMB-SNIFFING CANINE



Officer Bart Massey with canine Hugo

Unlike the other canines at AZDPS, the Department's newest dog is trained to sniff out and detect bombs, not drugs. This bomb-sniffing dog, a two-year-old German Shepard named Hugo, officially joined the AZDPS canine unit, making him the first bomb-detection dog that the Department's canine unit has had in the program's 16-year history. Hugo's handler and trainer is AZDPS Officer Bart Massey.

2004

ACTIC BEGINS OPERATIONS

The state's newest weapon against terrorism was unveiled with the christening of the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC), which provides a central operational base for local, state and federal agencies in their continuing quest to confront terrorism.



2004

2005 FIRE SUPPRESSANT

A ZDPS becomes the first agency in the world to start taking delivery of the substantially safer Crown Victoria Police Interceptors equipped with electronic fire-suppression systems. The crash-activated system deploys chemicals designed to suppress the spread of fire or potentially extinguish a fire, thereby providing more time for occupants to escape from a vehicle that has been rear-ended.



A Crown Vic demonstrates the electronic fire-suppression system.

2006

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIGHWAY PATROL

In 1931, because of the concern regarding the growing number of accidents and unlicensed vehicles on Arizona's highways, state officials created the Arizona Highway Patrol. The initial organization consisted of only a superintendent, 14 patrolmen (one authorized for each county) and one desk sergeant.



2006

2007

GROUNDBREAKING: SOUTHERN CRIME LAB

AZDPS broke ground for its new 42,000-square-foot Southern Regional Crime Lab at AZDPS headquarters in Tucson on the afternoon of Nov. 27. Director Roger Vanderpool said, "It's a historical day that we break ground for a new modern crime lab that will not only benefit Tucson, but all of Arizona." Vanderpool was also supported by Gov. Janet Napolitano, Donald Conrad from the Attorney General's Office, State Senate President Tim Bee and Amelia Cramer from the Pima County Attorney's Office.

The new facility, which will use \$17.7 million secured through the state's RICO funds, will provide pivotal new toxicology services through the lab's expanded space. Blood analysis time, which is currently hindered by having to send samples to Phoenix for more sophisticated tests, will improve 15 to 20 percent. "This new laboratory in Tucson will allow additional state-of-the-art DNA procedures to be implemented which are essential to solving all types of violent crimes," said AZDPS Scientific Analysis Superintendent Todd Griffith.

The new lab will also improve case processing efficiencies 10 to 25 percent in each forensic science area as the current lab bottlenecks AZDPS criminalists so much that they sometimes have to stand in line to process evidence.



Left to right: Donald Conrad, Director Roger Vanderpool, Gov. Janet Napolitano, Arizona State Senate President Tim Bee, Chief Deputy Pima County Attorney Amelia Cramer, Criminal Justice Support Division Chief Georgene Ramming, AZDPS Scientific Analysis Superintendent Todd Griffith, Regional Crime Lab Manager Ed Heller

2008

FIRST FEMALE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

On June 2, AZDPS Director Roger Vanderpool promoted Pennie Gillette-Stroud to deputy director. Gillette-Stroud began her career with AZDPS on November 12, 1980, as a cadet officer. After graduating from the academy, her first assignment was Tucson. In December of 1983, she transferred to Executive Security – Governor Protection.

In December of 1984, she was promoted to sergeant. As a sergeant her assignments were Highway Patrol in Nogales and Tucson, the Vehicle Theft Interdiction Unit, and the Canine Unit. In October of 1990, she was promoted to lieutenant for the Criminal Investigations Division. Her other assignments were district commander for Intelligence and Post Seizure Analysis and District 8 commander for Highway Patrol.

In July 2004, Gillette-Stroud was promoted to commander, assigned to Criminal Investigations Narcotics and the Drug Enforcement Bureau in September 2004. In March 2005, she was promoted to chief for the Agency Support Division and then the Criminal Investigations Division in July 2007. Gillette-Stroud has received three Director's Unit Citation Awards; in 1985 as the sergeant of District 8, Nogales; in 1998 as the lieutenant of District 8, Tucson; and in 2001 as the lieutenant of HIDTA. In December 2005, she completed the FBI National Academy.



Deputy Director Pennie Gillette-Stroud stands with Gov. Janet Napolitano and Director Roger Vanderpool at her promotional ceremony.

2009

GPS PROJECTILE DEPLOYED

AZDPS becomes the first state law enforcement agency to deploy a futuristic tool that will launch a GPS projectile at fleeing cars. The product, which AZDPS subsequently purchased and is now testing on a patrol vehicle in Southern Arizona, is comprised of a miniature GPS receiver, radio transmitter and power supply encased in a tracking projectile. The product is also comprised of a launcher which can be hand-held or mounted on a police vehicle.

It sounds very sophisticated, but the product is actually very simple to operate. A compressed air launcher mounted behind the grille of a police cruiser uses a laser to target the fleeing vehicle. It then discharges a projectile containing the GPS receiver, transmitter and power supply.



The projectile adheres to the suspect vehicle and transmits GPS coordinates back to a dispatch center. An agency's dispatchers are then able to track the suspect vehicle in real time on a digital roadmap via a secure internet connection.

2010

PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ENDS

At the first tick of the clock on Friday, July 16, the AZDPS Photo Enforcement Program became a thing of the past. There were no more AZDPS mobile photo enforcement vehicles on the federal and state highway system in Arizona and the stationary photo enforcement cameras placed along freeways in the Phoenix area were shut down.

The controversial program, the first of its kind in the country, ended because the two-year contract with the company that operated the photo enforcement cameras, Redflex Traffic Systems, was not renewed by AZDPS. The contract officially expired at 11:59 p.m. on July 15 at which point Redflex Traffic Systems had 120 days to remove all remaining above ground equipment and return the photo enforcement sites to their original configuration.

During the course of the expanded two-year program, 1,105,935 Notice of Violation/Citations were mailed. In addition, there were 2,758,700 camera activations. An activation was caused anytime a vehicle passed the camera sensors at 11 mph or more over the speed limit.



Fleet of AZDPS vehicles used for the photo enforcement program

2011

ARIZONA CAPITOL POLICE TRANSITIONS TO AZDPS

In July 2011 legislation was enacted that transitioned the Arizona Capitol Police over to the AZDPS. When the move took place, the Arizona Capitol Police force became the Capitol Police District within AZDPS. Organizationally, the Capitol Police District is now part of the Highway Division's Special Enforcement Bureau.

Currently, the District is responsible for providing comprehensive law enforcement services for 8,000-10,000 state employees and 53 state buildings located at the Capitol Mall. A critical function of the Arizona Capitol Police District is staffing Police Assistants at static posts that monitor and search well over 320,000 visitors and state employees who enter the Executive Governor's Tower annually.



2012 ARIZONA CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

Arizona's Centennial celebration proved safe and peaceful thanks to AZDPS employees. Several thousand people visited the state Capitol corridor in February to take part in Arizona's "party of the century", celebrating its 100 years of statehood.

AZDPS employees were involved in a variety of duties during the Arizona Best Fest, including uniformed patrol and security, plainclothes enforcement, communications, and coordination in the AZDPS Emergency Operations Center.



2012

2013 GHOST-MARKED VEHICLES INTRODUCED

A 2013 Ford Police Interceptor Utility becomes the first patrol vehicle at AZDPS to feature "ghost" markings. The ghost graphics will allow the vehicle to serve as both a marked and unmarked patrol vehicle.

The vehicle bears all the same decals and markings as a traditional AZDPS highway patrol vehicle, but they are colorless and barely visible.



2013 Ford Police Interceptor Utility with ghost markings.

2013

2015

BORDER STRIKE FORCE INITIATED

At the direction of Governor Doug Ducey, the Department initiated the Arizona Border Strike Force Bureau, a new enforcement initiative within the Criminal Investigations Division that not only targets border crimes but provides a comprehensive collaborative approach to help secure Arizona's border and thwart transnational criminal organizations.



2015

2015

DEPARTMENT REBRANDING

Branding is one of the most important aspects of any business, large or small. Having an identifiable brand can also be critically important to government agencies.

Thanks to the support of Gov. Doug Ducey and positive feedback from AZDPS employees, a major aspect of our current rebranding campaign centers around the word “Trooper”. Effective immediately, all sworn personnel at AZDPS, for all intents and purposes, should be referred to as “State Troopers,” or “Troopers,” in lieu of “Officers” or “Patrolmen.” The term “Trooper” better reflects the type and quality of work our sworn personnel perform on a daily basis statewide, and, when presented to the public on a daily basis, can help our agency strengthen its identity.

The term “Trooper” has deep historical roots and is used with tremendous pride and honor throughout the United States by state-level law enforcement agencies much like ours. AZDPS will begin using the term as much as possible throughout official Department documents, agency news releases, marketing materials, etc., when references to our sworn personnel are made.

Another aspect of our rebranding campaign may eventually involve changes to the look and appearance of our patrol vehicles.



AZDPS unveils the new patrol vehicle in the silver and black color scheme.

2016

PUBLIC SERVICES CENTER OPENS

Various units began moving into the newly renovated building, making it a centralized location for interaction with the public. The primary objective for the structure was for it to become a "one-stop shopping" location for those in need of public safety service.

AZDPS public service units now operating out of the building include: Concealed Weapons, Criminal History Records, Department and Public Records, Security Guard/Private Investigator Licensing, 30-Day Impound, Fingerprint, and Sex Offender Compliance.



Col. Frank Milstead speaks at the Grand Opening of the Public Services Center.

2017

AVIATION RECIEVES BELL 429 HELICOPTER

The Aviation Bureau of AZDPS has received delivery on a Bell 429 helicopter, a light twin-engine, hoist capable aircraft. This new helicopter offers more room in the cabin, which will allow for two trooper paramedics, two pilots, and multiple passengers. Having the ability to carry more personnel and passengers is crucial, especially during search and rescue operations. In addition to search and rescue operations, the Bell 429 will be used by the Department for border protection and other law enforcement operations. This becomes the newest helicopter in AZDPS' fleet of Bell 407 helicopters.



Bell 429 landing during Raiden Aguilera's Make-A-Wish day

2017

MAKE-A-WISH: RAIDEN AGUILERA

Raiden Aguilera's wish is to one day be a SWAT Operator. On December 7, 2017, the Arizona Department of Public Safety's SWAT team made this wish come true! The SWAT team went above and beyond what Raiden and his family expected for their Wish Day. Starting at the AZDPS hangar, the team showed him the different planes and helicopters used by the Department and then surprised him with a full mock mission! Raiden was sworn in by AZDPS Director, Col. Frank Milstead, and was off to rescue a couple of huggable hostages! From flying in the helicopter, to taking down the "bad guys", Raiden truly was a SWAT Operator that day.

Raiden's wasn't the first wish granted by AZDPS. Before Make-a-Wish was an organization, AZDPS officers had the opportunity to meet young Chris Greicius and grant his dying wish of being a police officer so he could catch the bad guys. An AZDPS motor officer then went on to be one of the founders of the Make-A-Wish organization after his experience with Chris.

Raiden was the first kid since Chris to have his wish granted by members of AZDPS. The experience was special for everyone involved, especially Col. Frank Milstead whose father, Ralph Milstead, was the Director of AZDPS during Chris' wish.



Raiden Aguilera with his fellow SWAT Operators after finding the bad guys

2018

TWO-TERM DIRECTOR



Col. Frank Milstead, Director

After Gov. Ducey was re-elected, he reappointed Col. Frank Milstead as the Director of AZDPS for his second term.

Previously, the only other two-term director in AZDPS history was his father, Col. Ralph Milstead, who served from March 1980 thru July 1989.

2019

50TH ANNIVERSARY

July 1, 2019, marked the 50th anniversary of the Department of Public Safety. For the special occasion, AZDPS held the grand opening & ribbon cutting ceremony of the Arizona Highway Patrol & Department of Public Safety Heritage Museum. Even the amazing Linda Pauling, mother of Chris Greicius, whose wish inspired the founding of Make-A-Wish, spoke during the opening ceremony. The AZDPS Heritage Museum displays hundreds of items dating back to the inception of the agency.

To honor the anniversary, Director Milstead also revealed the contents of a time capsule buried at AZDPS headquarters in 1988. Some incredible pieces of agency history were discovered, including AZDPS pin sets, letters, badges, medals and more. All of the items are on display in the Heritage Museum.



2019

Those who made the ultimate sacrifice



Louis O. Cochran
EOW: December 22, 1958
#59



Paul E. Marston
EOW: June 9, 1969
#138



Gilbert A. Duthie
EOW: September 5, 1970
#143



James L. Keeton
EOW: February 5, 1971
#310



Don A. Beckstead
EOW: February 7, 1971
#409



Alan H. Hansen
EOW: July 19, 1973
#204



Gregory A. Diley
EOW: December 2, 1977
#1442



Noah M. Merrill
EOW: December 11, 1978
#695



John C. Walker
EOW: November 30, 1979
#150



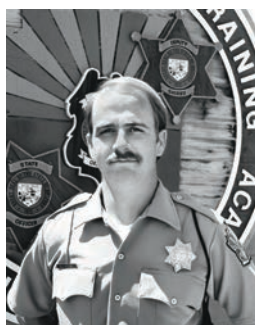
William H. Murie
EOW: November 19, 1980
#721



Thomas P. McNeff
EOW: October 2, 1983
#1758



Richard G. Stratman
EOW: October 2, 1983
#1622



Bruce A. Petersen
EOW: October 20, 1987
#3536



Edward A. Rebel
EOW: June 28, 1988
#233



Johnny E. Garcia
EOW: October 14, 1989
#3572

We will never forget



John M. Blaser
EOW: August 31, 1990
#2916



David G. Gabrielli
EOW: August 31, 1990
#1231



Manuel H. Tapia
EOW: January 8, 1991
1409



David J. Zesiger
EOW: July 3, 1992
#1848



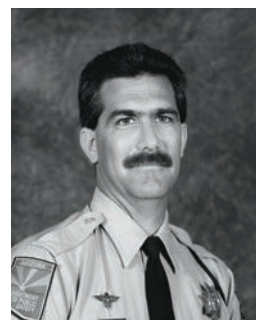
Mark M. Dryer
EOW: July 3, 1993
#9764



Michael L. Crowe
EOW: July 5, 1995
#2729



Robert K. Martin
EOW: August 15, 1995
#474



Douglas E. Knutson
EOW: January 2, 1998
#3818



Juan N. Cruz
EOW: December 9, 1998
#3111



Floyd J. Fink
EOW: February 18, 2000
#940



Brett C. Buckmister
EOW: March 21, 2000
#5548



Bruce W. Harrolle
EOW: October 13, 2008
#5669



Christopher R. Marano
EOW: December 17, 2009
#6759



Timothy A. Huffman
EOW: May 6, 2013
#5430



Tyler J. Edenhofer
EOW: July 25, 2018
#10449

50th ANNIVERSARY

We hope you enjoyed this special edition of the Digest, celebrating 50 great years of the Arizona Department of Public Safety!

Your 50th Anniversary Committee



From left to right: Ret. Lt. Jack Grant, Sgt. Gary Birtcher, Capt. Jesse Galvez, Capt. Steve Harrison, Capt. Jennifer Borquez, Lt. Col. James McGuffin, Maj. Warren Simpson, Desiree Shellenberger, Sgt. Darren Holweger, Capt. Aaron Lorenzen, Sgt. Tim Kvochick, Capt. Ezekiel Zesiger

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